

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0555-US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING ELECTRONIC RECORDS
FOR PHYSICAL TRANSACTIONS**

5 A method and apparatus for processing transactions.
In particular, the mechanism of the present invention is
used for processing information for physical
10 transactions. A data structure is received at a customer
data processing system for a physical transaction entered
into by the customer. This information is extracted and
used to update records or other information in the
customer data processing system. Further, a second data
15 structure is sent to a supplier of an item used in the
physical transaction. This data structure is used by the
supplier to update information maintained by the supplier
about the item. After updating the information, the
information is analyzed to generate statistics about
20 physical transactions involving the item.